

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please insert the following Section Heading between the 1st and 2nd paragraphs:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 4, please insert the following Section Heading between the end of the paragraph bridging from page 3 and the 1st paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 4, please insert the following between the 2nd full paragraph and the paragraph bridging onto page 5:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention, both as to its organization and manner of operation, may be further understood by reference to the drawings (not drawn to scale) that include Figures 1-5 taken in connection with the following description.

Figure 1a is a schematic illustration of a signal with several wavelength channels of equally distributed signal power;

Figure 1b is a schematic illustration of the distortion of the signal shown in Figure 1a;

Figure 2a is a schematic illustration of a distorted signal;

Figure 2b is a schematic illustration of the signal of Figure 2a after distortion;

Figure 3 is a graphical representation of experimentally determined optical power budget as a function of total power launched into a fiber;

Figure 4 is a graphical representation of optical power budget as a function of total power launched into a fiber comparing a conventional system with a system of the present invention; and

Figure 5 is a diagrammatical representation of an embodiment of a transmission system of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION